

Validation of municipal annexations  
(HB 273 by Watson)

DIGEST: The bill would have validated annexations or attempted annexations of territory prior to Aug. 24, 1981 by any incorporated city or town with a population of 200 or more. The validation did not apply to annexations within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of another municipality without the municipality's consent, nor to any action held invalid by a final court judgment.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS

FOR VETO: This bill might interfere with the settlement of the question of gulfward annexation by cities on the Gulf of Mexico. HB 411 (signed) places a two-year moratorium on gulfward annexation until the Legislature can come to a final decision on this problem. Signing this bill might also cut off a potential court test of this matter by the Attorney General.

SPONSOR'S  
REACTION:

Rep. Watson said the only intention of the bill was to solve a problem for the City of La Porte, at the city's request. La Porte was not able to hold an annexation election on the date it intended to because of a hurricane. The election was held on an alternate date not authorized by state law. Assuming the Governor's statement is correct, the sponsor does not object to the veto. The La Porte problem can be taken care of in the next session.

NOTES: Under HB 411 (Hanna, et al.), a home-rule city may not annex state-owned submerged lands before Oct. 1, 1983. The bill does not affect annexations completed or contracts in effect at the time of its passage. Currently, a home-rule city's boundary may extend to the state line, about 10 miles out from the coast.

Nutria  
(HB 675 by Watson)

DIGEST: The bill restricts the open season and methods for the taking of nutria pelts, and specifies nesting-place and breeding-place protection, all to correspond to the statutory provisions regarding muskrat under Section 72 of the Parks and Wildlife Code.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS

FOR VETO: HB 1831, already signed, is a comprehensive revision of the fur-bearing animal statutes. HB 1831 repeals Section 72 of the Parks and Wildlife Code, making this bill redundant.